

Survivor's Story

A Mum's Prospective - by Helen Bright

My burns on my arm have healed and only left a slight blemish, my hair grew back and so did my eyebrows. The feeling inside has faded, but I still get reminded from time to time.

My son's burns on his face will never go away, his toes will not grow back and his fingers will always have a slight bend and one leg will always be smaller than the other.



As a Mum being involved in a fire with your child is one of the worst feelings. Watching your baby all of three years go into operations for hours on end waiting on the ward for the call.... "He wants you, he is in recovery and doing OK"..... phew he made it again. So many operations we have lost count.

In the middle of the night waking to the beeping noise of the morphine pump running out, turning it off and sneaking down to the nurses so they can reload without waking the sleeping child.

Bandage change was hard enough for me on my burns; the pain is too hard to explain. It is nothing compared to spending two hours at a time changing your child's bandages with the nurses. The room is hot and the smell not so pleasant, your child has so much medicine on board he is actually smiling, oh and the forgetful drug is not nice when it wears off.

One day Mr 3 decided to pack a patty in the bed because I needed to go down stairs for a drink and have a breather. A grumpy nurse said to me "you should go he will be fine I will sit with him, he needs rules and boundaries or you will have trouble". I thought that nurse was so grumpy, but I have the utmost respect for her now. If I had let my child rule what I did, then he would still be ruling me now.

21 December 2010 will mark 13 years since our accident, my son is turning 16 in January. He has been to hell and back and I could never take his pain away, all I could do was support him. And all I can do now is support him.

"He is a survivor and so am I".

You can make it, and so will your child it is tough sometimes. Seek support when you need it, give rules and boundaries to your child. As much as we want to wrap them in cotton wool it won't help them later. Be thankful they made it through that bandage change and operation and support them to be proud of who they are and what they can achieve.

Proud Mum - Helen Bright.